

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
February 1, 2016**

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on February 1, 2016 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Eric Marquis; Council Member Amy Minner; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Norman Barlow, Chief of Police; William Pepper, City Solicitor; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Rhiannon Bush, City Clerk; Brandon Olenik, Kent County Department of Public Safety; Jennifer Antonik; and Barbara Bullock.

Council Member Fonda Coleman and Council Member Charles W. Porter were absent.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

Brandon Olenik stated that the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan enables local governments to increase education about threats caused by natural disasters, builds partnerships for risk reduction, and identifies long term risk reduction strategies. The original plan was in 2005, and the federal government requires an update every five years.

Mr. Olenik stated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that a hazard mitigation plan be adopted in order to receive certain nonemergency disaster assistance, such as funding for mitigation projects. Mitigation projects for Harrington include purchasing a back-up generator for wells, retrofit sewer lines to limit inflow of ground water, add an additional water tower, and add a new well. Other projects could be outreach related, like flyers, or security systems. Mr. Olenik stated that the grants are competitive.

Council Member Minner asked if railroad derailments are covered under the plan. Mr. Olenik stated that it is not possible to mitigate a train derailment, so it is not included in the plan; there are other plans that would cover that kind of emergency.

Charter change to add term limits for Mayor and Council Members

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that language in Section 5.7 of the Charter, which would be used to allow for a term limited mayor or council member to continue in

office if no one files to run for election is vague. The City Solicitor stated that the power for the City Council to appoint someone as a Council Member is only used if there is a vacancy.

Council Member Stubbs asked if this is the only change to the Charter. The City Manager stated that she would like a change to allow loan refinancing without a referendum. The last full Charter change was in 2011, and it may not be viewed favorably at the State Legislature to do a complete rewrite so soon.

Council Member Stubbs asked how many people voted in the term limit survey. The City Manager stated that there were sixty-seven (67) responses, fifty-nine (59) were in favor and eight (8) were against term limits.

Council Member Stubbs stated that it can be difficult to find people interested in serving on the City Council. Mayor Moyer stated that there were term limits previously that were removed around 1999.

Discussion occurred as to what the effective date of the term limits would be.

Vice Mayor Bivans asked if a term limited Mayor or Council Member would have to file their candidacy before the filing deadline. Council Member Marquis stated that the person would not file to run for office, but if no one else filed then the sitting Mayor or Council Member would continue for another term.

Curfew

The Chief of Police stated that local municipalities that have curfews do not prosecute for curfew violations and use it more as a tool to contact parents of juveniles that violate the curfew.

The City Manager asked if the Police Department currently has other tools available to get juveniles off the street. The Chief of Police stated that the police can do crime prevention checks and contact parents if there is an issue. There is not data that states that there are crimes committed by juveniles during the hours of the curfew.

Council Member Marquis stated that the people that came to the town hall meeting supported having a curfew.

Mayor Moyer stated that a curfew would help to protect children from drugs and predators.

The City Solicitor stated that enforcing the curfew also takes a police officer off the street waiting for a parent to pick up a child from the police station. The Attorney General's Office is unlikely to prosecute a curfew violation.

Vice Mayor Bivans stated that there should be more initiatives for activities for children and that a curfew has no data to support it. Laws like loitering would apply to people of all ages. Involving youths in the town would give them ownership of it and deter vandalism.

The Chief of Police stated that most juveniles are compliant and that it is unclear if vandalism is committed by juveniles or young adults. Officer Klotz is working on programs for community outreach. A curfew could deter negative behavior.

Council Member Minner stated that the people that she talked to want a curfew. Vice Mayor Bivans stated that people are in favor of it but also said that children have nothing to do.

The City Solicitor stated that the City of Dover does not enforce their curfew.

Discussion occurred about the curfew hours.

Zoning Code changes

The City Manager explained when a zoning compliance certificate is required, the proposed changes in fees, and reduction in some escrow amounts. She stated that these changes will save time and out of pocket expenses. Professional fees will still need to be tracked. Plans that require multiple reviews or inspections will be charged each time, because it is a cost that the City incurs.

The City Clerk stated many of the applicants for Category B plan reviews receive refunds on their escrow amounts. The City Manager stated that the City will have to ensure that all professional fees have been paid prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.

Discussion occurred regarding the methodology to determine the amount of fees.

Scheduling of a budget workshop

The workshop was scheduled for March 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Scheduling of a town hall meeting to discuss promoting growth with builders and developers

Council Member Minner stated that she would like to invite contractors and builders to the town hall meeting and ask that they respond if they are attending.

The town hall meeting was scheduled for February 17, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Comments

Mayor Moyer stated that he is celebrating his thirty-fourth (34th) wedding anniversary.

Council Member Minner stated that she asked to have the sign regulations discussed at the workshop. The City Solicitor stated that there is a potential issue for the Board of Adjustment.

Council Member Stubbs stated that he appreciates the employees' efforts during the snow storm and thanked the Chief of Police for securing equipment for the City to use.

The Chief of Police stated that there was an incident involving a police vehicle, but the officers are fine.

Public Comments

Barbara Bullock asked for clarification on the term limits resolution and asked what can be done about out of control parties. The Chief of Police stated that the City has a disorderly premises ordinance. Ms. Bullock stated that a curfew is a tool for parents to use too.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council